# **CAN HAIR DYE GET KILL LICE?**

*Yes, hair dye can kill lice but has not been scientifically proven. However, hair dyeing has other benefits other than killing lice.*

**Hair dye contains chemicals that can get rid of lice but not their eggs called nits. Nits have a protective solid coating that cannot be penetrated by chemicals.**

## **Contents of hair dye**

It is made up of different chemical components. Water is the main component.

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| --- | --- |
| **compound** | **Amount used in grams** |
| Ammonia | 0.20 |
| Water | 90.27 |
| p-phenylenediamine | 0.30 |
| p-hydroxybenzoic | 0.10 |
| Lauryl alcohol | 2.00 |
| Acetyl alcohol | 7.00 |
| 4-2-nitroaniline | 0.02 |
| Disperse violet | 0.02 |
| Disperse Blue 3 | 0.02 |
| 1-nitro-4-benzene | 0.03 |
| 4-amino-2-chloro-4-azobenzene | 0.04 |
| Total | 100.0 |

### **Why do people dye their hair?**

It is a process of changing the original hair color into a different one. The main reasons are:

* To restore the original color after it was discolored by hairdressing or sun bleaching.
* To cover undesirable color of original hair like gray or white.
* To look more desirable or fashionable.
* As part of their identity; more done by musicians and celebrities.
* To be more confident and boost their self-esteem.

### **Benefits of hair dyeing**

1. **To improve the strength of hair**- semi-permanent dyeing put a coat on the hair which makes them look stronger especially if one has weak or damaged hair.
2. **To protect them from environmental hazards**- excessive UV rays, pollution, wind, and very cold seasons like winter affect natural hair which could otherwise be protected by hair dyeing.
3. **For self-image –** hair coloring revitalizes one’s fashion and allows one to show off self-expression and personality.
4. **Compliments one’s features**
5. **Hair looks shinier when dyed.**
6. **Nourishes the hair**- it protects the integrity of hair fibers since it contains organic and herbal nutrients.

### **LICE INFESTATION IN HAIR.**

It is caused by having direct contact with the hair of a lice-infested person. The female louse usually lay eggs called nits which stick to hair shafts. Head lice have feet that are adapted to sticking onto the human hair.

The signs and symptoms of life infestation include;

* Sores on the scalp after scratching.
* Nits on the hair shaft which can be mistaken for dandruff.
* Lice on the other parts of the body.
* Intense itching and tickling feeling from the hair.

### **How hair dyeing gets rid of lice**

The following is a process that can be followed;

1. Start with vinegar and water and work down on each hair shaft.
2. Use warm water to rinse the vinegar and water.
3. Use a live comb to remove both live lice and nits.
4. Mix the hair dye following written instructions.
5. Saturation of the scalp using hair dye.
6. Use clean lice comb to comb the hair again.
7. Dry your hair using a hair drier.

**Hair dye side effects**

* Permanent hair dyeing causes a chemical reaction that removes protective proteins hence chemicals penetrate the scalp and hair shafts.
* It changes hair by nature that is, it causes reduced hair thickness and increased roughness of the hair follicle.
* It makes hair lose its strength and ability to withstand hair heating.
* PPD causes allergic reactions.
* Ammonia is toxic hence damaging the cuticle.

### **Conclusion**

Hair dying provides fashion sense and kills lice when applied. However, it doesn’t get rid of nits hence not a permanent solution to lice infestation.

**FAQs**

1. Can I dye the hair if I have lice? **Should not dye the hair if one is using over counter treatment since it will comprise harmful chemicals.**
2. Will bleaching my hair kill lice? Yes, it will kill but not effectively due to lice eggs.